

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03704 222106Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /063 W  
-----023034 230459Z /12

R 222030Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0715  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3704

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, GT  
SUBJ: MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT REVEALS "DETAILS" OF TERRORIST  
CAMPAIGN

1. IN FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 21, MINGOV ALVAREZ EXPANDED UPON THEME OF CONSPIRACY OF RIGHT AND LEFT EXTREMISTS TO DISRUPT THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.
2. PRINCIPAL NEW DETAIL WAS ALLEGED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TERRORISTS HIRED BY AN UNNAMED RIGHTWING GROUP TO TRAIN CELLS OF FOUR MEN EACH IN ASSASSINATION AND SABOTAGE TECHNIQUES. ALVAREZ NAMED NAMES: AN ARGENTINE, CARLOS ALBERTO DURICH FERNANDEZ; A CHILEAN, RAFAEL PERLA ZALDIVAR; AND A PERUVIAN JOURNALIST, FNU LEIVA (OR AVILA). HE SAID ASSASSINATION OF DEFENSE MINISTER, OTHER HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY AND AMBASSADORS WAS PART OF THE PLOT WHICH WAS TO HAVE COMMENCED JUNE 26. ASSASSINATION OF COL. RAMIREZ (GUATEMALA 3645), ALVAREZ SPECULATED, INDICATED THAT TERRORIST SCHEDULE MAY HAVE BEEN ADVANCED.

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3. ANSWERING SKEPTICAL REPORTERS, ALVAREZ SAID LACK OF EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO HOLD SUSPECTS WAS REASON THERE HAD BEEN NO DETENTIONS. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ACCUSATION AGAINST THE RIGHTWING MLN PARTY. THE MLN LATER RIDICULED ALVAREZ' THESIS OF RIGHT-LEFT COLLABORATION.
4. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

AYCINENA'S MEETING (GUATEMALA 3667) WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

5. COMMENT. ALVAREZ' REVELATIONS RAISE MORE QUESTIONS THAN THEY ANSWER, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS WHAT THE RIGHT GAINS FROM CONVULSION AT THIS TIME. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE MLN'S INITIAL IRE AT HAVING BEEN "ROBBED" OF PRESIDENCY BY THE LUCAS FORCES HAS LARGELY DISSIPATED IN THE WAKE OF A MODUS VIVENDI WHICH ALLOCATED IT A HEALTHY SHARE OF THE NEW CONGRESS AND THE NEW MAYORS. ALVAREZ' STATEMENTS, MOREOVER, ARE NOT EASY TO RECONCILE WITH INFORMATION (SOME OF IT ALSO INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT) WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE GOG SECURITY APPARATUS WHICH TENDS TO FOCUS ON A MORE PLAUSIBLE THREAT FROM THE EGP AND COMMUNIST PARTY DISSIDENTS. IT SEEMS ODD, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE NAMES FURNISHED BY ALVAREZ (WHO EMPLOYED THE UNPROVEN CUBAN EXILE INFILTRATION THEME SOME MONTHS BACK) HAVE NOT COME UP IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOG CONTACTS. WHILE THE EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING IS AFOOT (I.E., THE BOMBING OF A MILITARY POLICE VEHICLE AND RAMIREZ' KILLING) IS PLAIN TO SEE, THE GOG MAY NOT BE BEYOND EMBELLISHING IT TO ENLARGE THE RATIONALE FOR A CRACKDOWN.

BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, ASSASSINATION, TERRORISTS, PLOTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, PGOV, GT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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